MANITOWOC COUNTY LAKES ASSOCIATION

"The Manitowoc County Lakes Association will protect and enhance the quality of area lakes and watersheds for the benefit of all."

General Membership Meeting

11-21-2024 6:30 pm

Room 300, Soil & Water Conservation Building

4219 Expo Drive, Manitowoc, WI 54245

2023-2024 Officers:
President: Jerry Corfman
Vice President: Maria Lynch
Treasurer: Marcia Salm
Secretary: Scott Umland
Press Sec: Roger Vander Logt

Past President:
Tom Ward

Lake Directors

Bullhead Lake
Ron Gerrits

Carstens Lake
Brian Robley

Cedar Lake
Cynthia Leitner
Mike Strebe

English Lake
Kim Skattebo

Gass Lake
Richard Blashka

Harpt and Tuma Lakes
Dan Dufek

Hartlaub Lake
Gene Weyer

Horseshoe Lake
vacant

Lake Michigan
John S. Durbrow

Long Lake
Chuck Kiehn

Pigeon Lake
Randy Steinbruecker

Silver Lake
Brett Hubbartt

Spring Lake
vacant

Wilke Lake
Fred Ruszkiewicz

MEETING MINUTES:

- Called to order by Jerry Corfman, President.

There was a quick review of housekeeping rules.

Lake Stewardship Award:

- Presented by MCLA – Dave Pozorski to Bill and Amy Fricke
- 23-24 years of outstanding support and printing of newsletters and mailings.
- They have always provided efficient and quality work.

WAKE ENHANCING BOATS

(Approximately 4% of the boats out there)

Program by Jeff Meessmann, Mechanical Engineer, Founding member of Wisconsin Lakes Coalition, Director of Last Wilderness Alliance, 2023 Lake Stewardship Award and **Bill Jacobs** Town of Rhine, Sheboygan County Board, Crystal Lake ordinance.

Jeff Meessmann:

- Wisconsin has over 15,000 lakes.
- Explained waterskiing, wakeboarding and wake surfing including speeds and skills needed to perform them.
- Wake surfing boats are generally heavy with engine that can be around 600 HP.
- Wake surfing boats have ballasts.
- Ballasts can transfer invasive species.
- Wave up to 4 ½ feet can be created.
- Speeds are commonly 10-12 mph.
- Possible ecological damage to Lake Bottom due to downward prop wash.
- Gave an example of 15' deep lake bottom damage at Big Cedar Lake in Washington County.
- Explained the Aquatic Invasive Species issues.
- Ballasts can't be completely drained.
- Spiny water flea and others can live a long time and once they are in the lake there is currently no way to eliminate them.
- Winterizing of the boat and ballasts require the use of antifreeze. The boat manufactures state that the boats need to be in the water when started up in spring.
- Explained the shoreline erosion difference caused from wind driven waves and wake boat waves.
- Explained boats plowing the water instead of being on plane.
- Explained sediment resuspension.
- Explained safety issues with bow up boat use.
- Discussed respect of others on the lake.
- Discussed education not regulations and how it is working.
- Discussed the science behind the damage caused from wake enhancement.
- Explained what Pro Wake Boaters may say to contradict
- Concern with habitat destruction and phosphorus regeneration.
- Coalition principles are 700' from shoreline, 30' water depth, prevent invasive species in ballasts.
- Local ordinance may be fastest way to have restrictions. Use 30.77 statute.
- Last Wilderness has an ordinance template.

(continued)

Bill Jacobs

- 4 years ago, concerned people addressed the town board.
- Team of people including legal developed an ordinance.
- The ordinance has been time tested.
- Maybe 1 to 2 violations per year.
- Recommended immediate implementation of local ordinance.

Program by Stephen Radtke, Application Engineer for a Fortune 100 Company, worked in the Automotive and Military Industry, Debunking the Narrative.

- St. Anthony Falls Study (Mar 2022) is what is used as the benchmark.
- Explained what they don't tell you.
- Quality and Analysis issues.
- Wave created dissipates after 200 feet.
- Wave impact study.
- Wave heights.
- Weight of current boats without wave enhancement capabilities are heavy.
- Wave energy was discussed.
- Wave energy comparison from boats without ballasts. After 300' all boats may have the same residual waves including wake enhancement boats.
- Wind wave energy explained.
- Wind Wave energy is very similar to Wake Boat Wave energy.
- Shared wind speed historical data.
- Summarized waves and energy.
- Sediment Resuspension. Diver 15' under wake boat did not see any disruption. Even without boat traffic phosphorus levels change. Data shows that no resuspension occurs at 10' of water.
- Explained Water Clarity, Historical Testing and Data. Shows no significant changes over the years.
- Every boat creates prop wash and many operate is water depths less than 10 to 15 foot of water.
- Discussed Aquatic Invasive Species. All boats can retain water. He is not against the Home Lake rule. Boats that move every 5 days or less are the greatest risk. Aquatic Invasive Species were established prior to wake boats.
- Frequency of boat travel between lakes is a problem.
- Explained enforcement issues. Burden may be on the township. Some townships have made the decision not to have an ordinance. Some townships have had record request.
- Discussed that attempt to educate does work. There is a group at Balsam Lake that is a great example of attempt to educate working.

REBUTTAL

Stephan Radtke:

- Taking boat rights away requires better burden of proof.
- Believe the science.

Jeff Meessmann:

- The pictures represent what is happening. Believe your eyes.
- Invasive species are forever in the lake.
- Damage caused to Lake Bottom is forever.
- Safety issues must be considered.
- Sterndrives have the highest concentration of invasive species, but the heat generated by the sterndrives kills the invasive species they have.
- Most ordinances are written the same.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

- Example and pictures were shared of the undercutting of the shoreline on Cedar Lake in Manitowoc County.
- Thank you was expressed for organizing and thank you express to all the speakers.
- Cedar Lake cannot have 200' distance and many of the operation is in 8' or less.
- Concern with lake bed damage.
- Water clarity examples is caused by all boats.
- No hard data that resuspension is caused in 15' or greater water depth. Other studies show resuspension in 30' and greater depth.
- 200' distance from shorelines etc. was discussed.
- Every lake has its unique characteristics and for that reason local ordinances could be good.
- State should create minimum requirements.

General Business Meeting

- **Secretary's Report** - Reading of the last meeting minutes waived. They are on the MCLA website. Motion to accept, carried.

- **Treasurer's Report**

	$8,926.57	**balance in general account**
Expenditures:	$1,040.00	Autumn Ridge for MCLA Banquet
	$40.00	Manitowoc Trophy for Stewardship Award
	$100.00	MCLA Speaker, Shannon Davis-Faust
	$1,488.00	Fricke Printing for Newsletter
Deposits:	$125.00	Autumn Ridge for MCLA Banquet
	$1,020.00	from banquet meal
	$50.00	from lake dues received
	$9,856.15	**balance in grant account**
Expenditures:	$175.00	Wisconsin state Laboratory of Hygiene and
	$250.00	for Website.
Special Donations:	$23.17	John Durbrow annual website renewal
	$70.92	Pace Graphics for Wordfence security software renewal

Carried

- **General discussion:**
  - Carsten Lake retention area is progressing. Carsten Lake has a new pier and parking lot.
  - Carsten Lake culvert went in this week.
  - Glacier Land grant request is the same as last year.
  - Manitowoc County Fish & Game annual meeting is on 1/30/25 at City Limits at 7:00 pm. If wanted MCLA could speak for 5 minutes to describe MCLA.
  - Country Vision Sportsman Expo is at the Expo Grounds on 2/8/25 from 9:00 to 3:00. MCLA may want to consider a booth to promote MCLA. Can call Lisa Hall from Brillion Country Vision.

- **Future Meetings**
  - 02/27/25 Maria Lynch, vice president, organizing.
  - 04/17/25 Jerry Corfman, president, hopes to be back to organize.

Motion was made by Dave Pozorski and seconded by Mike Strebe to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Umland, MCLA Secretary